GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:152
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2004
THEFT IN BANKS
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy;Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in the Incidents of theft of lockers and robbery in the nationalized banks of the country particularly in Delhi during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such types of incidents;

(d) whether it is also a fact that in some incidents, Banks personnel have also been found involved;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken against the guilty persons?

Answer

FINANCE MINISTER (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table ofthe House.

Statement referred to iJqI reply to Parts (a) to (f) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 152 for 10th December 2004 by Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey and Shri S.K. Kharventhan regarding theft in banks.

(a) & (b) : Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that two incidents of theft from lockers have been reported during the last two years, one at Allahabad Bank, Commercial Agricultural Finance Branch, Ludhiana on 30.12.2003 and another at Punjab National Bank, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi on 23rd July 2004. The details of robberies in Public Sector Banks since 2002 are as under:

Year	No. of incidents	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
2002	106	619.11
2003	107	652.79
Upto 30th September,2004	85	688.28

(c): Security measures implemented by Public Sector Banks are reviewed in the State Level Security Committee meetings convened periodically by RBI. The meetings are required to be attended by bankers and State Government officials including Senior Police Officials. This Committee takes stock of the security environment in the State, steps needed to be taken to strengthen bank security and whem~ver fUliher improvements are considered necessary, requisite instructions are given to banks. Banks have classified their branches depending on the risk factors involved and posted armed guards, installed anti-burglary devices, etc. wherever necessary. Where deficiencies are reported in regard to guarding of bank`s branches by armed guards supplied by the State police, the State Level Security Committee requests the police authorities to provide adequate armed guards and enhance police vigil.

After the incidents in PNB at Delhi and in Allahabad Bank at Ludhiana, the banks have advised their field functionaries to adopt precautionary measures and abide by security nonns. They have also empanelled security agencies for providing outsourced security guards at vulnerable branches. All inspecting officials have also been instructed to ensure that the branches comply with the instructions on operations and safety of lockers in letter and spirit.

(d), (e) & (f): Punjab National Bank has reported that Police investigation has revealed involvement of a staff member who has been arrested by the Police. He has been suspended and necessary disciplinary action has been initiated. No involvement of any other staff

has been reported in thefts in lockers and robbery cases.